United Nations A/HRC/28/NGO/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 February 2015

English only

Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[07 February 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-02836 (E)

1502836

Please recycle

Human Right and the Environment*

We are part of an environmental chain where life of all creatures whether small or large is interrelated. When a link in this chain is broken or damaged the whole chain is destroyed. Human beings, as the only creature with the ability to foresee the consequences of various actions, have the power and the responsibility to protect this living chain – this environmental system.

Despite of the fact that in recent years much attention has been given to the environmental projects but it is not enough. Greater economic resources are needed to be guided towards environmental projects.

As it is today, many power stations and traffic systems need to be renewed so as to reduce the effect of climate change and the warming of the earth. Poor countries cannot afford such expenses. So the problem is not sufficiently addressed.

Smugglers do their share of damage by destroying forests and wild life. Obviously they should be stopped. We are all affected by the destruction of the living chain. Not only rain forests but all forests provide oxygen for the planet. But again it becomes an economical matter, for many countries do not have the budget , knowledge or intention to protect the eco system and to preserve life.

Climate change, the melting of glaciers, and the warming of the waters tsunamis, hurricanes are all mother earths reaction to mankind's violation of the laws of nature and her attempt to once again create balance. Just try to imagine what people who are affected by natural disaster, wars, and the rise of sea level, drought and starvation go through.

There are countries that change the course of the rivers by building large dams. Thus they prevent the waters reaching other landscapes or countries as nature intended. Sandstorms deplete the earth thus disabling farmers to grow crop. This is especially disastrous in dry countries. People will be forced to find new homes for they can no longer live on the land of their birth. And this is already happening. The question is where can they go? How can we make their lives count?

The sanctions and the attempt made to keep oil prices down, affects the oil producing and developing countries that have to exchange oil for food and other life preserving products. These sanctions are symbolic acts that have little or no effect on governments but it impacts the life of ordinary people with primary needs like food shelter, medication and schooling.

On a final note it is important for all of us to walk or talk; to live up to what we confess as our ideals. Humanitarian principles are not just values that other people should respect but all the activists on socials, economic, and political issues too. Going against humanitarian values sooner or later affects all of us, all the species, and life on the earth. And care for the environmental chain is not something that comes into and goes out of fashion depending on whether economic interests can be preserved.

---

* Association of women combating Environmental pollution, an NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.